

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the Office enter the above claim amendments and following remarks before considering the RCE filed concurrently herewith. Claims 1-12 are currently pending in this application. Newly presented claim 21 has been added. Applicant has cancelled claims 13-20, without prejudice in response to a Restriction Requirement. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above claim amendments and following remarks.

Independent claim 1 recites a tearable hemostasis valve comprised in part by a snap-fit arrangement coupled to a distal end of the valve body, wherein the snap-fit arrangement is adapted to couple onto an outer surface of an annular hub of a proximal end of a tubular medical device. (Underlining added for emphasis only). Applicant respectfully submits that Lui et al. do not disclose or suggest the recited claim elements.

The examiner alleges that FIG. 34 of Liu et al. includes a snap fit arrangement coupled to a distal end of the valve body that couples onto an annular hub of a tubular medical device as recited in claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The embodiment of FIG. 34 of Liu et al. actually discloses a hemostatic valve having a distal lip to help couple the valve within a passageway of a sheath. (Liu et al., paragraph [0058]). Thus the valve body of Liu et al. is inserted within a passageway of a sheath and does not snap onto an outer surface of a proximal end of the a tubular medical device as recited in claim 1.

Applicant has rewritten claim 4 in independent format to recite a tearable hemostasis valve comprised in part by a valve body having first and second grip tabs attached to the valve body at first and second points wherein the first and second points are the same point. Applicant respectfully submits that Lui et al. do not disclose or suggest the recited claim elements.

Rather, the grip tabs of the Liu et al. valves are located on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis of the valve body and are not attached to the valve body at a common point as recited in claim 4. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 is novel and non-obvious over Liu et al. and is therefore allowable.

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Newly presented claim 21 recited similar limitations. More specifically, claim 21 recites a tearable hemostasis valve comprised in part by a valve body having a longitudinal axis and having first and second grip tabs attached to the same side of the longitudinal axis of the valve body. Applicant respectfully submits that Liu et al. do not disclose or suggest the recited claim elements.

Rather, the grip tabs of the Liu et al. valve are located on opposite sides of the longitudinal axis of the valve body and are not attached to the valve body at a common point as recited in claim 21. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 is novel and non-obvious over Liu et al. and is therefore allowable.

In light of the above claim amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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